



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

NOV 03 2017

OFFICE OF
SOLID WASTE AND
EMERGENCY RESPONSE

NOW THE
OFFICE OF LAND AND
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The Honorable Dean Heller
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Heller:

Thank you for your letter of July 18, 2017, regarding the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) Section 108(b) financial responsibility proposed rule for the hardrock mining industry. We appreciate your interest in this rulemaking.

As you know, under CERCLA Section 108(b), Congress directed the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to develop financial responsibility requirements consistent with the degree and duration of risk associated with the production, transportation, treatment, storage, or disposal of hazardous substances. By December 1, 2016, the EPA was under court order to sign a notice of proposed rulemaking under CERCLA Section 108(b) on financial assurance requirements for the hardrock mining industry. The public comment period was extended 120 days and closed on July 11, 2017, to allow adequate time to review and comment on the complex issues raised by this proposal.

The EPA is in the process of reviewing the thousands of public comments it received on the proposal. The agency is under court order to sign a notice of its final action on such regulations by December 1, 2017, and expects to meet that deadline.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Carolyn Levine in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at levine.carolyn@epa.gov or (202) 564-1859.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Breen", is written over a horizontal line.

Barry N. Breen
Acting Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

NOV 03 2017

OFFICE OF
SOLID WASTE AND
EMERGENCY RESPONSE

NOW THE
OFFICE OF LAND AND
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The Honorable Michael D. Crapo
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

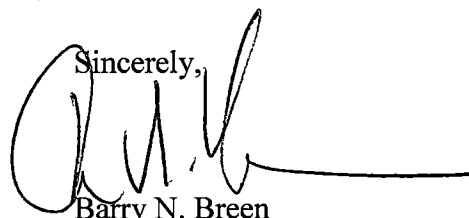
Dear Senator Crapo:

Thank you for your letter of July 18, 2017, regarding the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) Section 108(b) financial responsibility proposed rule for the hardrock mining industry. We appreciate your interest in this rulemaking.

As you know, under CERCLA Section 108(b), Congress directed the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to develop financial responsibility requirements consistent with the degree and duration of risk associated with the production, transportation, treatment, storage, or disposal of hazardous substances. By December 1, 2016, the EPA was under court order to sign a notice of proposed rulemaking under CERCLA Section 108(b) on financial assurance requirements for the hardrock mining industry. The public comment period was extended 120 days and closed on July 11, 2017, to allow adequate time to review and comment on the complex issues raised by this proposal.

The EPA is in the process of reviewing the thousands of public comments it received on the proposal. The agency is under court order to sign a notice of its final action on such regulations by December 1, 2017, and expects to meet that deadline.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Carolyn Levine in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at levine.carolyn@epa.gov or (202) 564-1859.

Sincerely,

Barry N. Breen
Acting Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

NOV 03 2017

OFFICE OF
SOLID WASTE AND
EMERGENCY RESPONSE

NOW THE
OFFICE OF LAND AND
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The Honorable Orrin G. Hatch
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Hatch:

Thank you for your letter of July 18, 2017, regarding the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) Section 108(b) financial responsibility proposed rule for the hardrock mining industry. We appreciate your interest in this rulemaking.

As you know, under CERCLA Section 108(b), Congress directed the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to develop financial responsibility requirements consistent with the degree and duration of risk associated with the production, transportation, treatment, storage, or disposal of hazardous substances. By December 1, 2016, the EPA was under court order to sign a notice of proposed rulemaking under CERCLA Section 108(b) on financial assurance requirements for the hardrock mining industry. The public comment period was extended 120 days and closed on July 11, 2017, to allow adequate time to review and comment on the complex issues raised by this proposal.

The EPA is in the process of reviewing the thousands of public comments it received on the proposal. The agency is under court order to sign a notice of its final action on such regulations by December 1, 2017, and expects to meet that deadline.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Carolyn Levine in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at levine.carolyn@epa.gov or (202) 564-1859.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Breen", is written over the typed name "Barry N. Breen".

Barry N. Breen
Acting Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

NOV 03 2017

OFFICE OF
SOLID WASTE AND
EMERGENCY RESPONSE

NOW THE
OFFICE OF LAND AND
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The Honorable John Barrasso
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Barrasso:

Thank you for your letter of July 18, 2017, regarding the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) Section 108(b) financial responsibility proposed rule for the hardrock mining industry. We appreciate your interest in this rulemaking.

As you know, under CERCLA Section 108(b), Congress directed the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to develop financial responsibility requirements consistent with the degree and duration of risk associated with the production, transportation, treatment, storage, or disposal of hazardous substances. By December 1, 2016, the EPA was under court order to sign a notice of proposed rulemaking under CERCLA Section 108(b) on financial assurance requirements for the hardrock mining industry. The public comment period was extended 120 days and closed on July 11, 2017, to allow adequate time to review and comment on the complex issues raised by this proposal.

The EPA is in the process of reviewing the thousands of public comments it received on the proposal. The agency is under court order to sign a notice of its final action on such regulations by December 1, 2017, and expects to meet that deadline.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Carolyn Levine in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at levine.carolyn@epa.gov or (202) 564-1859.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barry N. Breen", is written over the word "Sincerely,".

Barry N. Breen
Acting Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

NOV 03 2017

OFFICE OF
SOLID WASTE AND
EMERGENCY RESPONSE

NOW THE
OFFICE OF LAND AND
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The Honorable James E. Risch
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

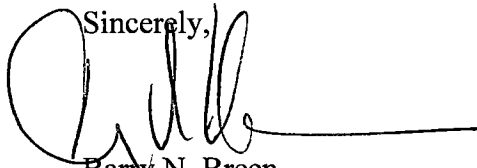
Dear Senator Risch:

Thank you for your letter of July 18, 2017, regarding the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) Section 108(b) financial responsibility proposed rule for the hardrock mining industry. We appreciate your interest in this rulemaking.

As you know, under CERCLA Section 108(b), Congress directed the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to develop financial responsibility requirements consistent with the degree and duration of risk associated with the production, transportation, treatment, storage, or disposal of hazardous substances. By December 1, 2016, the EPA was under court order to sign a notice of proposed rulemaking under CERCLA Section 108(b) on financial assurance requirements for the hardrock mining industry. The public comment period was extended 120 days and closed on July 11, 2017, to allow adequate time to review and comment on the complex issues raised by this proposal.

The EPA is in the process of reviewing the thousands of public comments it received on the proposal. The agency is under court order to sign a notice of its final action on such regulations by December 1, 2017, and expects to meet that deadline.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Carolyn Levine in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at levine.carolyn@epa.gov or (202) 564-1859.

Sincerely,

Barry N. Breen
Acting Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

NOV 03 2017

OFFICE OF
SOLID WASTE AND
EMERGENCY RESPONSE

NOW THE
OFFICE OF LAND AND
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The Honorable Michael S. Lee
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

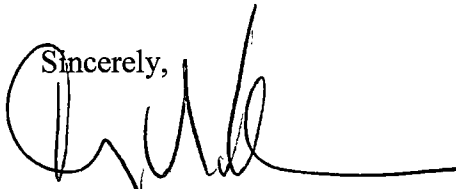
Dear Senator Lee:

Thank you for your letter of July 18, 2017, regarding the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) Section 108(b) financial responsibility proposed rule for the hardrock mining industry. We appreciate your interest in this rulemaking.

As you know, under CERCLA Section 108(b), Congress directed the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to develop financial responsibility requirements consistent with the degree and duration of risk associated with the production, transportation, treatment, storage, or disposal of hazardous substances. By December 1, 2016, the EPA was under court order to sign a notice of proposed rulemaking under CERCLA Section 108(b) on financial assurance requirements for the hardrock mining industry. The public comment period was extended 120 days and closed on July 11, 2017, to allow adequate time to review and comment on the complex issues raised by this proposal.

The EPA is in the process of reviewing the thousands of public comments it received on the proposal. The agency is under court order to sign a notice of its final action on such regulations by December 1, 2017, and expects to meet that deadline.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Carolyn Levine in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at levine.carolyn@epa.gov or (202) 564-1859.

Sincerely,
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barry N. Breen", is written over the word "Sincerely,".

Barry N. Breen
Acting Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

NOV 03 2017

OFFICE OF
SOLID WASTE AND
EMERGENCY RESPONSE

NOW THE
OFFICE OF LAND AND
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The Honorable James M. Inhofe
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Inhofe:

Thank you for your letter of July 18, 2017, regarding the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) Section 108(b) financial responsibility proposed rule for the hardrock mining industry. We appreciate your interest in this rulemaking.

As you know, under CERCLA Section 108(b), Congress directed the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to develop financial responsibility requirements consistent with the degree and duration of risk associated with the production, transportation, treatment, storage, or disposal of hazardous substances. By December 1, 2016, the EPA was under court order to sign a notice of proposed rulemaking under CERCLA Section 108(b) on financial assurance requirements for the hardrock mining industry. The public comment period was extended 120 days and closed on July 11, 2017, to allow adequate time to review and comment on the complex issues raised by this proposal.

The EPA is in the process of reviewing the thousands of public comments it received on the proposal. The agency is under court order to sign a notice of its final action on such regulations by December 1, 2017, and expects to meet that deadline.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Carolyn Levine in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at levine.carolyn@epa.gov or (202) 564-1859.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barry N. Breen", is written over the word "Sincerely,". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Barry N. Breen
Acting Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

NOV 03 2017

OFFICE OF
SOLID WASTE AND
EMERGENCY RESPONSE

NOW THE
OFFICE OF LAND AND
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The Honorable Steve Daines
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Daines:

Thank you for your letter of July 18, 2017, regarding the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) Section 108(b) financial responsibility proposed rule for the hardrock mining industry. We appreciate your interest in this rulemaking.

As you know, under CERCLA Section 108(b), Congress directed the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to develop financial responsibility requirements consistent with the degree and duration of risk associated with the production, transportation, treatment, storage, or disposal of hazardous substances. By December 1, 2016, the EPA was under court order to sign a notice of proposed rulemaking under CERCLA Section 108(b) on financial assurance requirements for the hardrock mining industry. The public comment period was extended 120 days and closed on July 11, 2017, to allow adequate time to review and comment on the complex issues raised by this proposal.

The EPA is in the process of reviewing the thousands of public comments it received on the proposal. The agency is under court order to sign a notice of its final action on such regulations by December 1, 2017, and expects to meet that deadline.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Carolyn Levine in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at levine.carolyn@epa.gov or (202) 564-1859.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Breen", is written over the word "Sincerely,".

Barry N. Breen
Acting Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

NOV 03 2017

OFFICE OF
SOLID WASTE AND
EMERGENCY RESPONSE

NOW THE
OFFICE OF LAND AND
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The Honorable Dan Sullivan
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

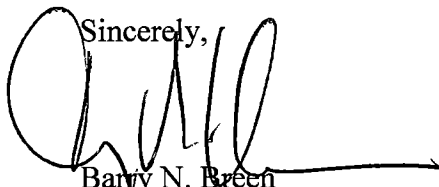
Dear Senator Sullivan:

Thank you for your letter of July 18, 2017, regarding the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) Section 108(b) financial responsibility proposed rule for the hardrock mining industry. We appreciate your interest in this rulemaking.

As you know, under CERCLA Section 108(b), Congress directed the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to develop financial responsibility requirements consistent with the degree and duration of risk associated with the production, transportation, treatment, storage, or disposal of hazardous substances. By December 1, 2016, the EPA was under court order to sign a notice of proposed rulemaking under CERCLA Section 108(b) on financial assurance requirements for the hardrock mining industry. The public comment period was extended 120 days and closed on July 11, 2017, to allow adequate time to review and comment on the complex issues raised by this proposal.

The EPA is in the process of reviewing the thousands of public comments it received on the proposal. The agency is under court order to sign a notice of its final action on such regulations by December 1, 2017, and expects to meet that deadline.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Carolyn Levine in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at levine.carolyn@epa.gov or (202) 564-1859.

Sincerely,

Barry N. Breen
Acting Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

NOV 03 2017

OFFICE OF
SOLID WASTE AND
EMERGENCY RESPONSE

NOW THE
OFFICE OF LAND AND
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The Honorable Marco Rubio
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

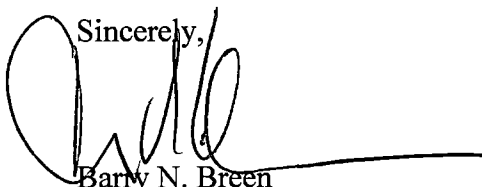
Dear Senator Rubio:

Thank you for your letter of July 18, 2017, regarding the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) Section 108(b) financial responsibility proposed rule for the hardrock mining industry. We appreciate your interest in this rulemaking.

As you know, under CERCLA Section 108(b), Congress directed the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to develop financial responsibility requirements consistent with the degree and duration of risk associated with the production, transportation, treatment, storage, or disposal of hazardous substances. By December 1, 2016, the EPA was under court order to sign a notice of proposed rulemaking under CERCLA Section 108(b) on financial assurance requirements for the hardrock mining industry. The public comment period was extended 120 days and closed on July 11, 2017, to allow adequate time to review and comment on the complex issues raised by this proposal.

The EPA is in the process of reviewing the thousands of public comments it received on the proposal. The agency is under court order to sign a notice of its final action on such regulations by December 1, 2017, and expects to meet that deadline.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Carolyn Levine in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at levine.carolyn@epa.gov or (202) 564-1859.

Sincerely,

Barry N. Breen
Acting Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

NOV 03 2017

OFFICE OF
SOLID WASTE AND
EMERGENCY RESPONSE

NOW THE
OFFICE OF LAND AND
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Murkowski:

Thank you for your letter of July 18, 2017, regarding the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) Section 108(b) financial responsibility proposed rule for the hardrock mining industry. We appreciate your interest in this rulemaking.

As you know, under CERCLA Section 108(b), Congress directed the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to develop financial responsibility requirements consistent with the degree and duration of risk associated with the production, transportation, treatment, storage, or disposal of hazardous substances. By December 1, 2016, the EPA was under court order to sign a notice of proposed rulemaking under CERCLA Section 108(b) on financial assurance requirements for the hardrock mining industry. The public comment period was extended 120 days and closed on July 11, 2017, to allow adequate time to review and comment on the complex issues raised by this proposal.

The EPA is in the process of reviewing the thousands of public comments it received on the proposal. The agency is under court order to sign a notice of its final action on such regulations by December 1, 2017, and expects to meet that deadline.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Carolyn Levine in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at levine.carolyn@epa.gov or (202) 564-1859.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Breen", followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Barry N. Breen
Acting Assistant Administrator

